

Little Wood Swallow at Ellendale.—Serventy & Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 4th edition, 1967) give the southern limit of the Little Wood Swallow (*Artamus minor*) as the Murchison River gorge and the Gnows Nest Range. On June 15, 1974 we observed a party of about eight Little Wood Swallows at Ellendale, flying close to the cliffs on the southern bank of the Greenough River; this extends the species' published range by about 120 kilometres. However, the ironstone breakaway habitat favoured by the species further inland is very much the same as that provided by the Ellendale cliffs. About the same number of birds has been seen at Ellendale by one of us (L.E.S.) on July 28 and August 18, suggesting that the flock is resident rather than vagrant.

—ERIC H. & LINDSAY E. SEDGWICK, Geraldton.

Dusky Moorhen at Leonora.—A single Dusky Moorhen, *Gallinula tenebrosa*, was captured in the waiting room of the Leonora railway station on April 15, 1975. The bird appeared to be slightly injured, but, when released at the edge of Lake Raeside, moved off smartly.

There was no doubt of the identification. Field notes show a grey-black bird, with white undertail coverts, greenish legs, and yellow beak with a red frontal shield.

The bird no doubt reached the Leonora area as a consequence of the flooding of the Lake Raeside lake system 6 weeks earlier, when the North-eastern Goldfields received between 250-400 mm of rain in a few days. Lake Raeside received waters from as far west as north of Youanmi and reached a width of 3 kilometres south of the town. The flooding of lakes throughout a large area of the interior of the state allowed the bird to travel over 400 kilometres from its regular haunts.

—DON REID, Leonora.

Singing Bushlark in the Northeastern Goldfields.—On December 17, 1974, when 13 kilometres east of Duketon, in an area of open mulga, largely *Acacia aneura*, I noticed two immature Black-throated Butcher-birds plucking a small bird wedged in a branch fork. On investigation, I found a neatly plucked body of a Singing Bushlark, *Mirafra javanica*, wedged in the fork by the head. The head and neck were still feathered, and the tail feathers on the ground were still recognisable. Identification was made on the following characteristics: beak, short and somewhat finch-like, pinky-brown in colour; tail feathers short in proportion to the body. Pale eyebrow in finely ornamented head feathers.

The presence well south of its regular distribution may probably be attributed to the two exceptional seasons the centre and the goldfields experienced in 1973 and 1974, which led to a spectacular growth of grasses and annuals throughout. It would have been easy under these conditions for a species to expand its distribution, even temporarily.

—DON REID, Leonora

Red Plumed Pigeon in the Carnarvon Ranges.—An extension in recorded range of the Red Plumed Pigeon, *Lophophaps ferruginea*, is indicated by my sighting two parties of these birds at Katjera Spring in the Carnarvon Ranges, approximately 3 kilometres east of Mt. Methwin, on May 15, 1975. A party of at least 10 was flushed at the western end of the rocky range containing the spring. First knowledge of their presence was their 'explosive' flight overhead. They rapidly came to ground in very broken quartzite country. Later in the afternoon, two birds were sighted on the *Triodia*-covered hill pediment north of the spring, apparently heading to water.